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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/731,400
Filing Date: December 09, 2003
Appellant(s): FERLITSCH, ANDREW RODNEY

Gerald Maliszewski
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 12/10/2008 appealing from the Office action mailed 11/14/2008.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

7,199,890	Kawamoto	4-2007
6,400,471	Kuo et al.	6-2002
7,161,696	Yamamoto et al.	1-2007

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-2, 4, 6-9, 11-17, 19, 21-24, and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamoto (US 7,199,890) in view of Kuo et al. (US 6,400,471) hereinafter 'Kuo', and further in view of Yamamoto et al. (US 7,161,696) hereinafter 'Yamamoto'.

Regarding Claim 1: (previously presented)

Kawamoto discloses a method for managing print jobs using a print subsystem despooling backplane, the method comprising:

accepting a print job in a first printer language format associated with a first printer device type (e.g., The graphic engine 202 similarly loads the printer driver 203 prepared every printing apparatus from the external memory 11 into the RAM 2 and converts the output of the application 201 into a control command of the printer 1500 by using the printer driver 203 as described in Column 7, lines 58-62) at a print subsystem despooling backplane input interface (e.g., Printer Input Section 18 of Figure 1);

calling a plurality of despooling backplane plugins (The device which converts the print command into intermediate code; Column 19, lines 11-13);

converting the print job into an internal representation (IR) document (The common printer driver 301 accesses the spooler 302, converts the received print command into the intermediate code of the print command, and saves it into the spool file 303 (step 502) as described in Column 19, lines 15-22) **that is independent of a printer device target and the language format associated with a printer device target** (Referring to Figure 5, the common printer driver 301 forms print data which does not depend on each printing apparatus on the network as described in Column 9, lines 11-13);

processing the IR document using parallel processing (Column 8, lines 52-54);

converting the processed IR document into a processed print job in a second printer language format associated with a second printer device type (a plurality of **second converting means** (printer drivers 203, 601, 602) for converting the drawing object stored in the storing means into print control information that **is peculiar to the printing apparatus that is selected** and for transferring the print control information to each corresponding printing apparatus as described in Column 9, lines 45-50);(The process which allows the despooler 305 to again output the intermediate code into a print command for the printer; Column 19, line 27); and

supplying the processed print job at a despooling backplane output interface (See 204 in Figure 3 supplying data to printer 1500).

Kawamoto does not disclose expressly:

a plurality of backplane plugins;

storing the IR document in a shared data memory ;

each plugin accessing the IR document in shared data memory;

generating a multiple processed IR document by using the plurality of plugins to perform an action selected from a group consisting of parallel processing the IR

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document, serially processing the IR document, and processing the IR document using a combination of parallel and serial processes

Kuo discloses:

a plurality of backplane plugins (Image Processing Backplane 630 includes three plug-in image processing software modules IPM(1) 622, IPM(2) 624 and IPM(3) 626 as shown in Figure 6, and described in Column 9, lines 9-11);

storing the IR document in a shared data memory (FIG. 5 is a diagram of the non-volatile memory of FIG. 4 showing the image processing backplane and image processing modules stored within.);

each plugin accessing the IR document in shared data memory (Image processing backplane 630 retrieve lines of data that are fed into IPM(1) 622, which in turn feeds into IPM(2) 624, which in turn feeds into IPM(3) 626) as shown in Figure 6 and described in Column 9, lines 29-32);

generating a multiple processed IR document by using the plurality of plugins to perform an action (e.g., In the present embodiment, three image processing modules are utilized. The first image processing module performs linearization, defect correction, and white balance. The second image processing module performs interpolation and color correction. The third image processing module performs sharpening and color space conversion as described in Column 8, lines 60-66.)

Kuo & Kawamoto are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing, e.g., both coordinate the functioning and communication of the various image processing stages and handles the data flow between the various stages. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a plurality of plug-in modules to process data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to integrate the different platforms. Different versions of operating systems increase development and manufacturing costs, and are expensive to support. Upgrades must be prepared for

each version, and separate users manuals must also be written and published as disclosed by Kuo in Column 2, lines 10-17. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the plug in modules of Kuo with the image processing system of Kawamoto to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Kuo et al. and Kawamoto et al. disclose all of the limitations disclosed above.

Kuo et al. and Kawamoto et al. do not disclose expressly parallel processing the IR document, and processing the IR document using a combination of parallel and serial processes.

Yamamoto et al. discloses using both parallel and serial interfaces (FIG. 3 shows an example of a memory map in the RAM 2 upon printing in the host computer 1500 or upon setting of the printer. An application 32 executes the print by using an OS 36 and a print program (printer driver) 35. A BIOS 37 is called a basic input/output system and includes therein a program for driving a parallel interface, a serial interface, or the like which is connected to the printer 1500.)

Yamamoto, Kuo & Kawamoto are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing; e.g., all references use despooling modules. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use parallel and serial processing of a document in a despooling system. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have more than one method of processing data. Depending on the systems involved one method may be more suited than the other in terms of speed and economy. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the parallel and serial processing method of Yamamoto with Kawamoto and Kuo to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding Claim 2: (previously presented)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein calling the plurality of despooling backplane plugin includes calling plugins chosen from the group including:

user-selected plugins;

predetermined plugins responsive to criterion such as printer driver, printer model, printer configuration, printer condition, user, administrative grouping, document content, and document type (Column 9, lines 45-50); and

plugins called from other plugins (Column 9, lines 45-50).

Regarding Claim 3: Cancelled

Regarding Claim 4: (previously presented)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein processing the IR document in response to the plurality of plugin includes performing a process selected from the group including translating the print job into an IR document (Column 9, lines 39-43), analyzing, modifying the print job data, modifying control of the print job, gathering print subsystem-external information related to the print job, producing print subsystem-external information related to the print job, setting print subsystem-external information related to the print job, and reassembling IR documents.

Regarding Claim 5: Canceled

Regarding Claim 6: (previously presented)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 4 wherein reassembling IR documents includes removing conflicts between a plurality of processed IR documents (Column 18, lines 50-55); and

wherein converting the processed IR document into a processed print job includes converting the plurality of IR documents into the processed print job.

Note: It is clear that Kawamoto's print control method is designed to repeat itself.

Regarding Claim 7: (previously presented)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 4 wherein setting print subsystem-external information related to the print job includes selecting the second printer language format associated with the second printer device type (a plurality of **second converting means** (printer drivers 203, 601, 602) for converting the drawing object stored in the storing means into print control information that **is peculiar to the printing apparatus that is selected** and for transferring the print control information to each corresponding printing apparatus as described in Column 9, lines 45-50).

Regarding Claim 8: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 4 wherein gathering print subsystem-external information related to the print job includes monitoring a printer condition (Column 11, lines 55-67) selected from the group including the availability of connected printing devices, currently printing print jobs, pending print jobs, completed print jobs, print job failures, printer performance, printer locality, and printer capabilities.

Regarding Claim 9: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 8 wherein monitoring a printer condition includes:

querying a node selected from the group including a print subsystem spooler (Column 7, line 45; System Spooler in Figure 2), a print subsystem port manager, a printer manager, a print service, and a printer (1500 in Figure 2); and

maintaining a cache of printer condition information (Column 7, lines 19-21).

Regarding Claim 10: (Canceled)

Regarding Claim 11: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 4 wherein translating the IR document includes parsing spool/raster image processor (RIP) footers and headers, parsing a print job control header, and parsing language data selected from the group including raster (Column 6, lines 56-59), image, and page description language (PDL) data.

Regarding Claim 12: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 11 wherein parsing a print job control header includes:

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calling a plurality of printer job control header plugins selected from the group including printer job language (PJL) and job definition format (JDF) plugins (Column 7, lines 30-34); and

using the print job control header plugin that recognizes the print job control header data (Column 7, lines 58-62).

Regarding Claim 13: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 11 wherein parsing language data includes:

calling a plurality of language plugins selected from the group including raster (Column 6, lines 56-59), image, printer control language (PCL), portable document format (PDF), PostScript (PS), PCL XL, HP GL/2, IPDS, Escape P, SCS, and TIFF plugins; and

using the language plugin that recognizes the language data (Column 7, lines 58-62).

Regarding Claim 14: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 4 wherein analyzing the IR document includes performing an action selected from the group including job accounting, printer pooling, job splitting, access control, security, content filtering, resource downloading, compression, reformatting (Column 9, lines 45-50), and language translation.

Regarding Claim 15: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the method of claim 4 wherein gathering print subsystem-external information related to the print job includes gathering information selected from the group including a print subsystem host (3000 in Figure 3), a printer (1500 in Figure 3), a printer device manager, and a print service.

Regarding Claim 16: (previously presented)

Kawamoto discloses a print subsystem despooling backplane, the backplane comprising:

a library of despooling backplane plugins (203, 601 and 602 in Figure 5);

a controller having an interface to accept a print job in a first printer language format associated with a first printer device type (e.g., The graphic engine 202 similarly loads the printer driver 203 prepared every printing apparatus from the external memory 11 into the RAM 2 and converts the output of the application 201 into a control command of the printer 1500 by using the printer driver 203 as described in Column 7, lines 58-62);(Column 18, lines 61-67), the controller converting the print job to an internal representation (IR) document (Column 19, lines 15-22) that is independent of a printer device target and the language format associated with a printer device target (Referring to Figure 5, the common printer driver 301 forms print data which does not depend on each printing apparatus on the network as described in Column 9, lines 11-13), and supplying the IR document at an interface (e.g., Printer Input Section 18 of Figure 1);

a component processor having an interface to call a plurality of plugins from the library (Spool File Manager 304 in Figure 3) and an interface to accept the IR document

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accessed from the shared data memory (Spool File 303 in Figure 3), the component processor generating a multiple processed IR document by using the plugins to perform an action selected from a group consisting of parallel processing the IR document, serially processing the IR document, and processing the IR document using a combination of parallel and serial processes, (Column 8, lines 52-54) converting the processed IR document into a processed print job in a second printer language format associated with a second printer device type (a plurality of **second converting means** (printer drivers 203, 601, 602) for converting the drawing object stored in the storing means into print control information that **is peculiar to the printing apparatus that is selected** and for transferring the print control information to each corresponding printing apparatus as described in Column 9, lines 45-50) (Column 8, lines 54-55), and supplying the processed print job at an interface (See 204 in Figure 3 supplying data to printer 1500).

Kawamoto does not disclose expressly:

a plurality of backplane plugins;

storing the IR document in a shared data memory ;

each plugin accessing the IR document in shared data memory;

generating a multiple processed IR document by using the plurality of plugins to perform an action selected from a group consisting of parallel processing the IR document, serially processing the IR document, and processing the IR document using a combination of parallel and serial processes

Kuo discloses:

a plurality of backplane plugins (Image Processing Backplane 630 includes three plug-in image processing software modules IPM(1) 622, IPM(2) 624 and IPM(3) 626 as shown in Figure 6, and described in Column 9, lines 9-11);

storing the IR document in a shared data memory (FIG. 5 is a diagram of the non-volatile memory of FIG. 4 showing the image processing backplane and image processing modules stored within.);

each plugin accessing the IR document in shared data memory (Image processing backplane 630 retrieve lines of data that are fed into IPM(1) 622, which in turn feeds into IPM(2) 624, which in turn feeds into IPM(3) 626) as shown in Figure 6 and described in Column 9, lines 29-32);

generating a multiple processed IR document by using the plurality of plugins to perform an action (e.g., In the present embodiment, three image processing modules are utilized. The first image processing module performs linearization, defect correction, and white balance. The second image processing module performs interpolation and color correction. The third image processing module performs sharpening and color space conversion as described in Column 8, lines 60-66.)

Kuo & Kawamoto are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing, e.g., both coordinate the functioning and communication of the various image processing stages and handles the data flow between the various stages.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a plurality of plug-in modules to process data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to integrate the different platforms. Different versions of operating systems increase development and manufacturing costs, and are expensive to support. Upgrades must be prepared for each version, and separate users manuals must also be written and published as disclosed by Kuo in Column 2, lines 10-17.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the plug in modules of Kuo et al. with the image processing system of Kawamoto to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Kuo and Kawamoto disclose all of the limitations disclosed above.

Kuo and Kawamoto do not disclose expressly parallel processing the IR document, and processing the IR document using a combination of parallel and serial processes.

Yamamoto discloses using both parallel and serial interfaces (FIG. 3 shows an example of a memory map in the RAM 2 upon printing in the host computer 1500 or upon setting of the printer. An application 32 executes the print by using an OS 36 and a print program (printer driver) 35. A BIOS 37 is called a basic input/output system and includes therein a program for driving a parallel interface, a serial interface, or the like which is connected to the printer 1500.)

Yamamoto, Kuo & Kawamoto are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing; e.g., all references use despooling modules.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use parallel and serial processing of a document in a despooling system. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to have more than one method of processing data. Depending on the systems involved one method may be more suited than the other in terms of speed and economy. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the parallel and serial processing method of Yamamoto et al. with Kawamoto and Kuo to obtain the invention as specified in claim 16.

Regarding Claim 17: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 16 wherein the component processor calls plugins chosen from the group including:

user-selected plugins; predetermined plugins responsive to criterion such as printer driver, printer model, printer configuration, printer condition, user, administrative grouping, document content, and document type (Column 9, lines 45-50); and
plugins that are called from other plugins (Column 9, lines 45-50).

Regarding Claim 18: (cancelled)

Regarding Claim 19: (previously presented)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16 wherein the component processor performs a process selected from the group including translating the print job into an IR document (Column 9, lines 39-43), analyzing, modifying the print job data, modifying control of the print job, gathering print subsystem-external information related to the print job, producing print subsystem-external information related to the print job, setting print subsystem-external information related to the print job, and reassembling IR documents.

Regarding Claim 20: (Canceled)

Regarding Claim 21: (previously presented)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 19 wherein the component processor reassembles IR documents to remove conflicts between a plurality of processed IR documents and converts the plurality of IR documents into the processed print job (Column 18, lines 50-55).

Note: It is clear that Kawamoto's print control method is designed to repeat itself.

Regarding Claim 22: (previously presented)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 19 wherein component processor uses print subsystem-external information related to the print job includes selecting the second printer language format associated with the second printer device type (a plurality of second converting means (printer drivers 203, 601, 602) for converting the drawing object stored in the storing means into print control information that is peculiar to the printing apparatus that is selected and for transferring the print control information to each corresponding printing apparatus as described in Column 9, lines 45-50).

Regarding Claim 23: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 19 wherein the component processor gathers print subsystem-external information related to the print job by monitoring a printer condition selected from the group including the availability of connected printing devices, currently printing print jobs, pending print jobs, completed

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print jobs, print job failures, printer performance, consumables, printer locality, and printer capabilities (Column 11, lines 55-67).

Regarding Claim 24: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 23 wherein the component processor monitors a printer condition includes by:

querying a node selected from the group including a print subsystem spooler (Column 7, line 45; System Spooler in Figure 2) , a print subsystem port manager, a printer manager, a print service, and a printer(1500 in Figure 2); and

storing the printer condition information in cache (Column 7, lines 19-21).

Regarding Claim 25: (Cancelled)

Regarding Claim 26: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 19 wherein the component processor translates the print job into an IR document by parsing spool/raster image processor (RIP) footers and headers, parsing a print job control header, and parsing language data selected from the group including raster (Column 6, lines 56-59), image, and page description language (PDL) data.

Regarding Claim 27: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 26 wherein the component processor parses a print job control header by:

calling a plurality of printer job control header plugins selected from the group including printer job language (PJM), and job definition format (JDF) (Column 7, lines 30-34); and

using the print job control header plugin that recognizes the print job control header data (Column 7, lines 58-62).

Regarding Claim 28: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 26 wherein the component processor parses the language data by:

calling a plurality of language plugins selected from the group including raster (Column 6, lines 56-59), image, printer control language (PCL), portable document format (PDF), PostScript (PS), and PCL XL, HP GL/2, IPDS, Escape P, SCS, and TIFF plugins; and

using the language plugin that recognizes the language data (Column 7, lines 58-62).

Regarding Claim 29: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 19 wherein component processor analyzes the IR document by performing an action selected from the group including job accounting, job control, printer pooling, job splitting, access control,

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security, content filtering, resource downloading, compression, reformatting (Column 9, lines 45-50), and language translation.

Regarding Claim 30: (original)

Kawamoto further discloses the backplane of claim 19 wherein the component processor gathers print subsystem-external information related to the print job by gathering information selected from the group including a print subsystem host (3000 in Figure 3), a printer (1500 in Figure 3), print service, and a printer device manager.

(10) Response to Argument

Regarding Applicant's Argument (Page 9, lines 16-19):

"Kawamoto does not disclose a plurality plugins, the storing of an IR document in a shared data memory, or the accessing of an IR document from shared memory, so that it can be processed by the plurality of plugins."

Examiner's Response:

Kawamoto does not disclose expressly:

a plurality of backplane plugins;

storing the IR document in a shared data memory ;

each plugin accessing the IR document in shared data memory;

generating a multiple processed IR document by using the plurality of plugins to perform an action selected from a group consisting of parallel processing the IR document, serially processing the IR document, and processing the IR document using a combination of parallel and serial processes

Kuo discloses:

a plurality of backplane plugins (Image Processing Backplane 630 includes three plug-in image processing software modules IPM(1) 622, IPM(2) 624 and IPM(3) 626 as shown in Figure 6, and described in Column 9, lines 9-11);

storing the IR document in a shared data memory (FIG. 5 is a diagram of the non-volatile memory of FIG. 4 showing the image processing backplane and image processing modules stored within.);

each plugin accessing the IR document in shared data memory (Image processing backplane 630 retrieve lines of data that are fed into IPM(1) 622, which in turn feeds into IPM(2) 624, which in turn feeds into IPM(3) 626) as shown in Figure 6 and described in Column 9, lines 29-32);

generating a multiple processed IR document by using the plurality of plugins to perform an action (e.g., In the present embodiment, three image processing modules are utilized. The first image processing module performs linearization, defect correction, and white balance. The second image processing module performs interpolation and color correction. The third image processing module performs sharpening and color space conversion as described in Column 8, lines 60-66.)

Kuo & Kawamoto are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing, e.g., both coordinate the functioning and communication of the various image processing stages and handles the data flow between the various stages. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a plurality of plug-in modules to process data.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to integrate the different platforms. Different versions of operating systems increase development and manufacturing costs, and are expensive to support. Upgrades must be prepared for each version, and separate users manuals must also be written and published as disclosed by Kuo in Column 2, lines 10-17. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the plug in modules of Kuo with the image processing system of Kawamoto to obtain the invention as specified.

Regarding Applicant's Argument (Page 10, lines 19-23):

"Raw CCD image data is not a printer language associated with a particular printer. Neither is CCD data a document (i.e. an IR document). Kuo does not disclose an IR document, as defined by the claimed invention. Therefore, Kuo cannot disclose the processing of an IR document."

Examiner's Response:

The Examiner respectfully submits that the main reference used in this action, Kawamoto discloses a print job in a printer language format associated with a first printer device as recited in claims 1 and 16 (accepting a print job in a first printer language format associated with a first printer device type (e.g., The graphic engine 202 similarly loads the printer driver 203 prepared every printing apparatus from the external memory 11 into the RAM 2 and converts the output of the application 201 into a control command of the printer 1500 by using the printer driver 203 as described in Column 7, lines 58-62).

Regarding Applicant's Argument (Page 11, lines 11-15):

"Yamamoto does not disclose converting a print job into an IR document that is independent of the target device and target device language. Yamamoto does not disclose the processing of an IR document. Yamamoto does not disclose any processes performed in a printer despooler subsystem."

Examiner's Response:

The Examiner respectfully submits that the main reference used in this action Kawamoto discloses converting the processed IR document into a processed print job in a second printer language format associated with a second printer device type (a plurality of second converting means (printer drivers 203, 601, 602) for converting the drawing object stored in the storing means into print control information that is peculiar to the printing apparatus that is selected and for transferring the print control information to each corresponding printing apparatus as described in Column 9, lines 45-50).

Regarding Applicant's Argument (Page 15, lines 16-18):

"Neither does the obviousness rejection provide evidence that such a modification would have been obvious to one with skill in the art based upon what was well known at the time of the invention."

Examiner's Response:

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by

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combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

In this case Kuo & Kawamoto are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing, e.g., both references disclose interfaces with different modules. Each of these modules process and manipulate image data, and how they go about it depends on the module/plugin that is selected. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a plurality of plug-in modules to process data. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to integrate the different platforms. Kuo discloses e.g., the need to support different versions of operating systems increases development and manufacturing costs, and is expensive to support (Kuo in Column 2, lines 10-17). It would have been well known at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the plug in modules of Kuo with the image processing system of Kawamoto to obtain the invention as specified in order to perform platform independent image processing.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

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For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

/Neil R. McLean/

Examiner, Art Unit 2625

Conferees:

/David K Moore/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/King Y. Poon/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625